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HOUSE MEMORIAL 17

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Jimmie C. Hall

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ASSIGN A STUDY OF WAYS TO ENCOURAGE STATE UNIVERSITIES TO EMPHASIZE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THOSE PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES THAT ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the higher education funding formula provides for the cost of academic programs at the universities, but does not consider the utility of those programs; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of professions in short supply in New Mexico, including baccalaureate or higher degree nurses, doctors, dentists, certified public accountants, teachers, school administrators, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, engineers and the list goes on; and

WHEREAS, such shortages affect not only those people in

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1 direct need of these professional services, but the economic
2 well-being of the state, since study after study shows that the
3 work force and quality of life are the preeminent reasons
4 companies decide to locate in a state; and

5 WHEREAS, there is no mechanism to ensure that state
6 universities are producing the professional disciplines that
7 the state needs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
10 legislative council assign to the appropriate interim committee
11 a study of ways to encourage state universities to emphasize
12 degree programs in those professional disciplines that are in
13 short supply in New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study consider methods to
15 reward universities for increasing graduation rates in
16 underrepresented disciplines; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee consult
18 with the higher education department and the universities
19 during its study; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council, the higher
22 education department and the council of university presidents
23 for distribution to the university presidents.